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Governor



W. James Host  
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KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## DEPRESSION-ERA QUILTS TO BE FEATURED IN NEW EXHIBIT

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 6, 2004) –The Kentucky Historical Society will unveil its newest exhibit at the Kentucky History Center in downtown Frankfort on Saturday, April 17. “*The Softer Side of Hard Times, Kentucky Depression-era Quilts*,” brings together handcrafted quilts, artifacts and photographs of that era, many being seen for the first time.

The thirteenth exhibit in the Keeneland Changing Exhibits Gallery will feature stories of Kentucky women and their needle-art skills as the Great Depression began in the state. When self reliance was necessary to soften the harsh realities of life, these women contributed to the national quilt revival of the 1930s and created businesses and legacies of their own.

A majority of the quilts on display are from the Kentucky Historical Society collection while others are on loan from the University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University and various private collections. Kentucky counties represented in “*The Softer Side of Hard Times, Kentucky Depression-era Quilts*” include Jefferson, Lee, Fayette, Muhlenberg, Warren, Green, Marion, Scott, Mercer, Franklin, Jackson, Breckenridge and Grayson.

In addition to the exhibit, which runs through August 28, the Historical Society is planning learning activities and events for adults and children that promote the art of quilting and feature this unique era of Kentucky’s history. For more information on these events, visit the Web at <http://history.ky.gov> or call (502) 564-1792.

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The Kentucky Historical Society, since 1836, has provided *connections to the past, perspective on the present and inspiration for the future*. KHS operates the Old State Capitol, Kentucky Military History Museum and its five-year-old headquarters, the Kentucky History Center. Since 1999, the \$30 million History Center has welcomed nearly **one million visitors**. For more information about the Kentucky Historical Society and its programs, visit the Web at <http://history.ky.gov> or call (502) 564-1792.